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## *What's on my mind...*

### Note from the Editor

December is upon us. Rather than speculate on the past year or the upcoming holidays, I'd like to tell you about a courageous young man whose life was recently turned upside down.

Van<sup>o</sup> Brooks is 16 years old, a junior and varsity tailback for Loyola Blakefield. On September 25, 2004, during a football game, Van's head collided with a running back's leg during a tackle. Van was flown to Shock Trauma where he underwent surgery to relieve pressure on his spinal cord. He remains in serious condition with a severe compressed spinal cord injury.

People in the community have united to raise funds to help with Van's recovery. On December 4, there will be a celebrity auction at Loyola Blakefield, and a Van Brooks Recovery Fund has been established. For more information or to make a donation, go to [www.vanbrooks.com](http://www.vanbrooks.com).

During this season of giving, take time to read more about Van, and, if possible, to help.

I wish you a joyous holiday season.

—Michele Wojciechowski

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*About the Cover:*

Daniel Bendann and younger brother, David pose in front of their Bendann Brothers studio at 205 W. Baltimore St. in a photo, circa 1870. Read more in our story on page 18.



# Shopping the Net

by Jane Sellman

Is Christmas shopping stressing you out? Do you have family members who respond to your questions about what they want for Christmas with "Whatever"?

Are you having a hard time finding a partridge in a pear tree?

Why are you driving yourself to the mall *and* crazy? Wouldn't it be better to shop from the comfort of your desk chair—with non-holiday music in the background and a cup of hot chocolate by your side?

This year, instead of heading out to fight the crowds, stay home and shop the Internet.

On the Internet, you can find terrific bargains, arrange to have items shipped to your door, have a gift wrapped before it's shipped, and locate hard-to-find items without driving from store to store.

Shopping opportunities abound on the World Wide Web—in fact, far more than I can tell you about in this article. But I do have some sugges-

tions to make your shopping experience easier.

Half.com, which is a part of eBay, is a great place to find bargains and hard-to-locate items. Looking for a CD of the Pet Shop Boys for that friend who misses the 1980s? Try Half.com. Want to help someone complete her collection of Stephen King or Anne Rice novels? Go to Half.com. Been looking everywhere for a pink backpack with wheels and bells? Okay, I won't guarantee you will find it at Half.com, but it's the first place I'd look.

Be aware that some items on this site are second-hand. Others are brand new and just ended up in someone's inventory. The sellers, though, give straightforward descriptions of the conditions of the items. Sometimes you have a variety of conditions and prices from which to choose. I have purchased two videos, two or three CDs, and countless books and have been

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happy with everything—and so have the recipients of the gift items.

Another great feature of this site is that you can add an item to your wish list. If the item comes in at your price, you will be notified quickly by e-mail. Half.com will also refer you to EBay if the item you want is in an auction. (I've only used EBay once, but I was quite happy with the result.)

Shipping charges? Yes, you have to pay those. Think of it as the price you pay for saving gas—and best of all, no aching feet. If it's an item you can easily find anywhere, the shipping price is probably not worth it. But consider how much you would spend on gas going to two malls to find Eminem's first CD or the deluxe edition of *The Lord of the Rings*. In this case, Half.com would save you time.

The only drawback (and it's not much of one) is that although you buy through Half.com, the items come from all over the country. Half.com notifies the seller and that person sends the merchandise on to you. If you buy more than one item, you will be receiving packages at

various times.

The Internet especially blesses booklovers and book givers. There are a lot of great places to find books. Barnes and Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)) and Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) are two of the best-known sites. Barnes and Noble still sticks pretty much to books and related items. Amazon, however, has expanded to include such items as apparel and kitchen supplies.

For the snackaholic, you can find a grand variety of treats to order online—and you can even choose from area companies, like Utz ([www.utzsnacks.com](http://www.utzsnacks.com)) for tins of chips and other snacks and Wockenfuss ([www.wockenfusscandies.com](http://www.wockenfusscandies.com)) and Moore's ([www.moorecandies.com](http://www.moorecandies.com)) for some of the world's best candy.

Know someone living outside the Old Line State and homesick for everything Maryland, check out [www.celebratmaryland.com](http://www.celebratmaryland.com), and send that homesick Marylander a Crab Cake Kit, hon, or a cute little T-shirt.

The Internet is also a great place to find gifts for kids. You can

get toys at Web sites for familiar toy stores like Toys "R" Us and others, plus you can find a variety of specialty stores for hobby items, posters, arts and crafts materials, and sports equipment.

And educational sites abound. For a small fee or even for free, you can download coloring books. These make wonderful stocking stuffers. Try National Geographic ([www.nationalgeographic.com/coloringbook/archive/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/coloringbook/archive/)) or Stacey Meyer's Free Online Coloring Books ([www.awhitehorse.com/centaur/](http://www.awhitehorse.com/centaur/)).

Is there a family member who parks himself/herself in front of the TV to watch sports on the weekend? Why not look for a present from the home team? Just about every team you can imagine has an online presence—from the Orioles (<http://baltimore.orioles.mlb.com>) to the Ravens ([www.baltimore-ravens.com](http://www.baltimore-ravens.com)) to the Blast ([www.baltimoreblast.com/](http://www.baltimoreblast.com/)).

Don't overlook the cook in the family. You can find kitchen gadgets of all kinds at [www.cooking.com](http://www.cooking.com). Cooking is one of the most popular subjects on the Web, so there will be no shortage of sites filled with cooking tips, recipes, specialty ingredients, and much more.

Somewhere in all that information is a wonderful and special gift for the food artist in your life. And if the cook could use a break, why not order something exotic and wonderful for a pre-Christmas dinner? You can probably guess what [www.maineobster-direct.com](http://www.maineobster-direct.com) sells. But in addition to

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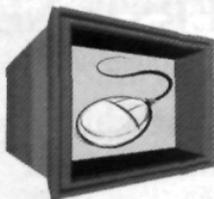
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If you're really stumped about what to get that hard-to-buy-for person in the family, you might visit [www.christmas.com/](http://www.christmas.com/). This site is a doorway to other holiday sites and offers ideas for gifts, places that have gift certificates, etc.

One word about gift certificates. Try to get them without expiration dates—or with very distant ones. Sometimes people get busy after the holidays and may put the gift certificate away for a rainy depressing weekend in March—only to find that it expired in February.

Two other sites that are good starting points for shopping are Shopping Brains ([www.shopping-brains.com/](http://www.shopping-brains.com/)) and Azcentral ([www.azcentral.com/style/shopping/](http://www.azcentral.com/style/shopping/)).

Another great aspect of online shopping is that you can shop at stores that otherwise might not be conveniently located for you. And everything from big traditional department stores like Marshall Field's to specialty shops like Wet Seal and Crabtree and Evelyn have sites to explore.

If you haven't shopped online before, talk to a computer savvy friend and get recommendations. You might want to open a separate bank account with a debit card you use for online purchases. Even if you are an old hand at surfing and shopping the net, you should check out the following guides for tips on safe Internet shopping:

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/cybrsmrt.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/online/cybrsmrt.htm)

<http://nclnet.org/shoppingonline/>

[www.bbb.org/alerts/article.asp?ID=435](http://www.bbb.org/alerts/article.asp?ID=435)

[www.shoppingbrains.com/](http://www.shoppingbrains.com/) and

[www.azcentral.com/style/shopping/](http://www.azcentral.com/style/shopping/)

Oh, and by the way, if you really are looking for partridge, you could try Game Sales International ([www.gamesalesintl.com/tocgs.html](http://www.gamesalesintl.com/tocgs.html)).

But as for the pear tree, you're on your own.



*Jane Sellman, when she can pry herself away from checking out great online shopping sites, freelance writes from Baltimore.*

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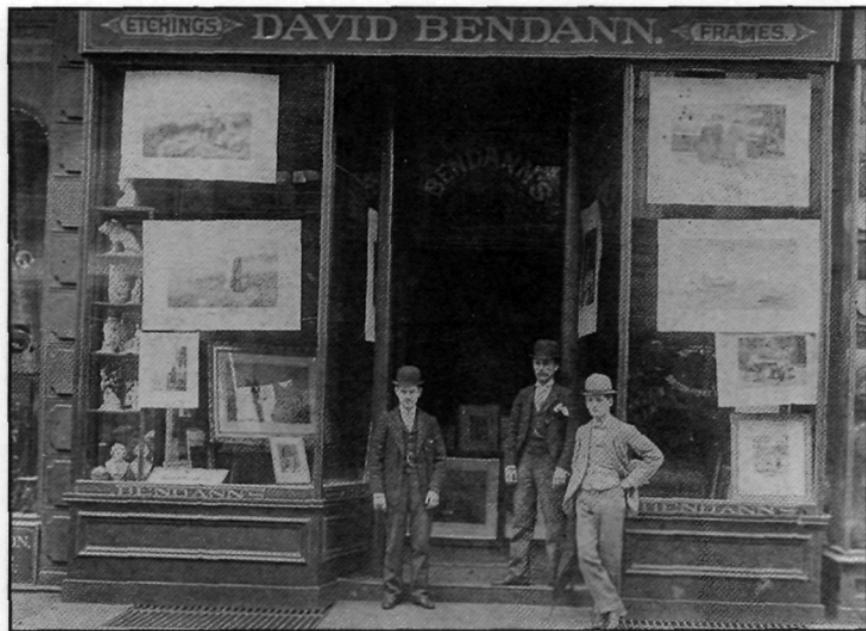
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*Original Bendann Art Gallery, Baltimore Street, circa 1900.*

## ***Bendann Art Galleries Celebrates 145 Years***

Story by Michele Wojciechowski

Photos courtesy of Lance Bendann

Lance Bendann thinks about his business quite a lot, although not in the way that you might expect. Being the fourth-generation owner of Bendann Art Galleries, a family business that has been in existence for 145 years, is an honor to him. It's a privilege. And he thinks about it every day.

"A day doesn't go by that you don't look at your job—at least I

don't—in the context of the past as well as the future," says Lance. "In that sense, you're always thinking in a pretty broad concept of where you've been and where you're headed. For me, it's impossible not to do that."

Understandably so. Because besides clearly having longevity in the Baltimore community, the business also has a rich history.

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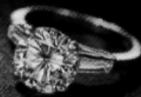
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## **Budding Photographers**

The history of Bendann Art Galleries begins with a tale of two brothers—David and Daniel Bendann, Lance's great-grandfather and great-uncle respectively. Born in Richmond, Virginia, where their father, Fabbish Bendann settled after emigrating from Prussia, David and Daniel began their careers as photographers.

The Bendann brothers went to work in their teens for a well-known, well-respected photographer of the time, Jesse Whitehurst. While working for Whitehurst, they learned a great deal about the field of photography, and in 1857, they opened a Whitehurst studio in Baltimore. They returned to Richmond in 1858. Finally in 1859, the brothers headed back to Baltimore, and this time, they opened a photography business of their own and called it Bendann Brothers.

David and Daniel focused their business on portrait photography. At the time, the

daguerreotype had been invented (this was a photographic process in which a photo was produced on a silver or a silver-coated copper plate). "I always like to think they were on the cutting edge of the photographic technology of the period," remarks Lance. "It was just a technology and a medium that was probably exploding with growth and interest."

In Baltimore, a number of photographic portrait studios were clustered in the W. Baltimore Street area. That's exactly where the Bendann Brothers opened their studio, at 205 W. Baltimore Street.

## **Famous Faces**

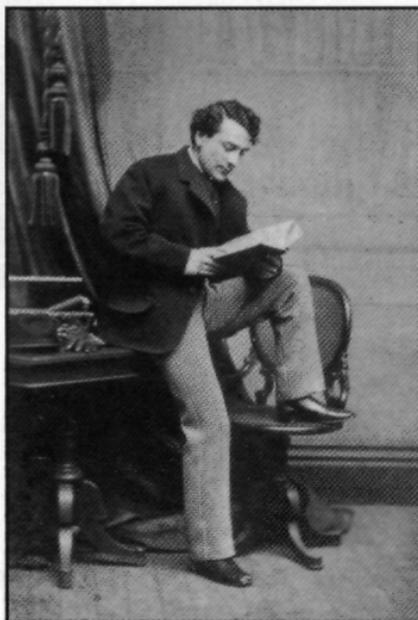
The Bendann Brothers offered their customers a number of different photographic formats, but their most popular items—which were also their main business—were the "cartes de visite." French for "visiting cards" or "calling cards" as we would better know them, these were

photographs measuring two-and-a-half by three inches mounted on rigid cardboard. According to Lance, people referred to them as the “social currency” of the period, and they functioned much as Victorian calling cards did.

David and Daniel also retouched photographs by going over them with watercolors or pastels (remember that all photographs were black and white back then). By the 1870s, they had a rather extensive portrait business, with photography being the basis of it.

The Bendanns photographed many famous people of the time: President Buchanan, Edgar Allen Poe, Jefferson Davis, Enoch Pratt, Cardinal Gibbons, William Walters, Johns Hopkins, J.P. Morgan, Supreme Court Justice Roger B. Taney, and General Robert E. Lee. Besides photographing these luminaries, the brothers also shot photos of local businessmen, mayors of Baltimore, and governors of Maryland.

When people sat for their portraits, they could choose to pose in front of one of a number of painted backgrounds, which looked like a landscape, the interior of a library, and the like. These backgrounds were so successful that the brothers patented them as “Bendann Backgrounds.”



David Bendann, circa 1870, in front of superimposed Bendann background.

### Civil War Photography

During the Civil War, photography began to really take off. Lance says that just as today, when someone enters the service, he or she gets a photo taken in uniform, so did the soldiers back then. Civil War soldiers would get photos taken and send them back to their families. As a result, Bendann’s business increased.

“They were [two] of the few photographers of the period to actually photograph both sides of the Civil War,” says Lance.

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Although their business was in Baltimore, the brothers were from Richmond, and actually got into trouble during the Civil War for their "Southern sympathies." In 1862, a Union Navy lieutenant came to Bendann's to have his photo taken. David knew that soldiers were often there one day and gone the next, so he insisted on a down payment for the work. The lieutenant refused. The men began to argue, and the lieutenant drew his sword. David pulled a gun out of his desk and forced the lieutenant to leave.

Later, the lieutenant returned with a squad of officers. David was arrested and sent to Fort McHenry. Officials agreed to release him if he would sign an oath of allegiance. He refused, saying that he had allegiance to Prussia, where his father was born. David was then sent to Fort Hamilton in New York, where he was kept for three months. Lance says that it's claimed David was released after Abraham Lincoln

pardoned him—reportedly, this was the president's first pardon granted to a civilian.

Daniel was also arrested, but for a very different reason. In 1865, while in the bar of the Eutaw House Hotel, he refused to toast the Union victory at the battle of Appomattox. At the time, Baltimore was under Marshall Law. Daniel was arrested.

Shortly after, Lincoln was assassinated. As pro-Union residents mobbed the streets of Baltimore, threatening anyone on the side of the Confederacy, a rumor began to spread. People said that the Bendann brothers were selling likenesses of John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated Lincoln. To protect the brothers and their shop from the angry mob, a police guard was called in.

## **End of an Era**

When the Civil War ended, David and Daniel expanded their business by opening an art gallery

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in 1867 on Fifth Avenue in New York City. At the time, Fifth Avenue was a residential street, and this opening of a business is said to have created an uproar. But the brothers had started something on a street that would eventually become one of the most well-known shopping areas in the world.

David and Daniel eventually abandoned the New York business and concentrated on their work in Baltimore. By 1874, though, David had become more interested in fine arts and decided to concentrate on that, while Daniel stayed with photography. The brothers split up the business. Bendann Brothers was no more.

**A New Business**

Lance says that over the next 50 years after the Civil War, the middle class began growing across the country, and they created a demand for more commercial art. More commercial galleries that could find art work from around the world for local buyers began to pop up.

After David opened his fine arts gallery, Bendann Art Galleries, he travelled to Europe many times to buy paintings and prints. His gallery also served as an educational center for city students, as at the time, the public didn't have much access to art. (In fact, David was one of the people

who donated money to establish a museum in Baltimore, which was the Baltimore Museum of Art.)

The business did well. But during the Great Baltimore Fire, the gallery, located at 105 E. Baltimore Street, burned down like so many other buildings in downtown Baltimore. According to Lance, the business relocated temporarily to Charles Street, but moved back to the Baltimore Street location after it was rebuilt in 1906 or 1907.

The brothers both died in 1915. By then, three of David's four sons had entered the business. Daniel had no children.

### **Passing the Torch**

David's three oldest sons, Maurice, Lawrence, and Roland, were the second generation to run the Bendann business. His youngest son, Felix (Lance's grandfather), was considered the black sheep of the family and stayed out of it. In the early 1940s, Felix passed away, but left behind two sons, David (Lance's father) and Felix, Jr.

Lance's uncle, Felix, Jr., was the first son of the third generation to go into the business. Lance says that his father, David, was a creative, wilder young man, and was out in Arizona having a good time, when he was summoned by

his older brother, Felix, to come home and help with the business. So he did.

Probably the most significant action that Felix, Jr. and David took during their tenure as business owners was to open the first suburban branch of the gallery, at what was then Towson Plaza (now Towson Town Center). They opened a gallery in the small strip in 1959.

"They were doing what a lot of smart businessmen do, and that is they were following their customers," says Lance. He says they discovered that a lot of their customers were moving into the new suburbs from the city, so they followed them.

From 1959 until 1994, Bendann Art Galleries had two locations—one in the city and one in the county.

During 1982, there was a fire in the downtown shop ("Every generation gets to deal with one of these," jokes Lance.), so they set up a temporary headquarters on W. Baltimore Street. In 1984, they reopened downtown in a new location on E. Redwood Street between Calvert and South Streets. That location remained open until 1994.

### **The Fourth Generation**

Believe it or not, Lance Bendann did not immediately

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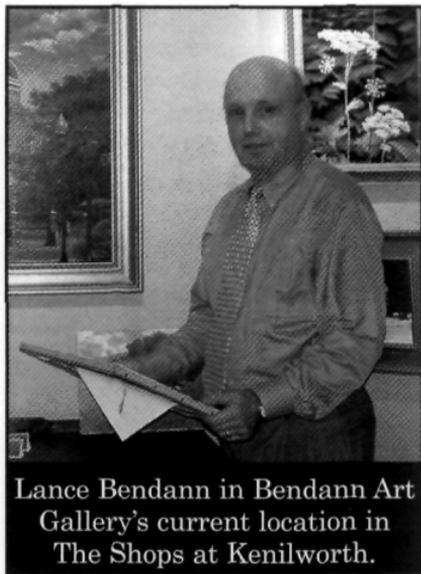
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Lance Bendann in Bendann Art Gallery's current location in The Shops at Kenilworth.

become involved in the family business. In 1967, after earning his undergraduate degree in history from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia—at the time when the Vietnam War was heating up—Lance joined the Navy. In 1970, after fulfilling his commitment, Lance did not reenlist and instead began teaching during the fall of 1971 at Gilman, his alma mater.

While he was teaching, Lance earned his MLA, Master's in Liberal Arts, from The Johns Hopkins University. He continued to teach at Gilman until 1976 when he became the fourth generation to join the family business.

Lance says that he got into

teaching because he loved it. But he chose to leave the profession he loved when his uncle decided to get out of the business. Lance admits that he joined Bendann Art Galleries, not because he didn't like teaching anymore, but because of the lure of earning a better standard of living.

But that wasn't the only reason. Part of it was because it was the family business.

Lance bought out his uncle's part of the business over a period of years. He and his father, David, were equal partners until David's death in 1984. Lance then bought out his father's share of the business from the estate. He has run the business ever since.

### **Bendann Today**

The year 1994 was an important one for Bendann Art Galleries. Lance closed the Redwood Street location and moved the Towson gallery from Towson Town Center to its current home in The Shops at Kenilworth.

Today, Lance says, the core of what Bendann Art Galleries offers is paintings, which could best be described as traditional, representational, and conveying realism.

"We've never been out on the cutting edge of abstract art," says Lance. "[Our works] tend to be more conventional, realist paintings."

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Bendann represents between 25 to 30 living, regional artists who work primarily in oil, water-color, and pastel.

The Gallery still represents some European artists as well. As Lance says, the business has its roots in Europe, and he deals with a couple of people who represent European artists—and he's been dealing with them for decades. In fact, Bendann Art Galleries is in its third generation of dealing with *the same company in Europe.*

But Bendann also offers services like painting and print restoration. In addition, it offers custom framing and even portraits.

"We also have a portrait business," says Lance, "which brings things full circle." The portraits they do today, however, are paintings rather than photographs.

The art business is quite different than it was when Bendann Art Galleries was founded. Lance admits that 50 or 100 years ago, if Baltimoreans wanted a nice painting or print, most of them went to a gallery to get it. The owners travelled and brought the works back. But now, people can travel on their own, buy the work they want, and bring it home without involving a gallery. And, of course, the advent of the

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Internet has made it convenient for people to even buy works online.

Lance thinks, though, that Bendann continues to thrive because they have something special to offer.

"Fortunately, we have a product and a service that thrives on personalization and personal relationships in a way that a lot of others don't," explains Lance. "I think by the very nature of the product and the service there will always be a group of people who like that kind of face-to-face hands-on relationship." He says that helping someone purchase art or restoring a family portrait has a certain soulful nature to it that will keep people coming to art galleries.

### Looking to the Future

So will there eventually be a fifth generation of Bendanns running the business? Lance doesn't know, and he says that he's okay with that. He and his wife, Anne, have a son, Chris, who is now in college. He says that it will be Chris' decision as to whether or not he eventually wants to run the business. Lance is comfortable with Chris coming into the business, but he's also comfortable if he chooses not to.

"I think I'm a realist. I don't believe that anything lasts forever," says Lance. "I don't have this obsession with Bendann's continuing forever."

There are just a couple of galleries that Lance is aware of that have been around longer than Bendann's. They are located in older cities like Boston and Philadelphia. But whether Bendann exists for another 10 years or another 100, Lance is at peace with it.

"I try to appreciate that fact—that we've been open this long. Because it's just over the top," says Lance. "And when I see businesses celebrating their 10th or 20th year, I do not scoff at that. My reaction is always, 'Good for you,' because I know...[that] to keep a business going for five, 10 or 20 years is extraordinary.

"For us, it's just amazing."



*Michele Wojciechowski is the editor of the Valley Times. Thanks to Lance Bendann for providing various materials about the history of the Bendann family and business.*

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## In the Garden with Carrie Engel

### *Winter Blooms*

**B**right, cheery flower blooms in the dead of winter bring a smile to anyone's face. Right now, I look forward to winter's slower pace—post-holiday of course—but I know I'll miss the garden. So, gardening moves indoors.

Windowsills fill with herbs and tropicals "saved" from the harsh winter elements. At work, the greenhouse begins to fill with new plants from Florida, local growers, or from the greenhouses of Ontario, Canada. Poinsettias are showcased pre-holiday, and several are bound to enter my home and my Mom's home. It is, after all, her favorite plant.

My favorite winter-bloomer is the cyclamen. Silvery-green heart-shaped leaves shelter small, colorful buds that emerge well above the foliage into what appears to be upside down petals, lots of them, in brilliant colors, suspended on small,

thin stems. Red, purple, pink, bright white, and magenta flowers bloom profusely from October to about March indoors. Cyclamen love a cool, bright window where temperatures stay in the 60s. They will not fare well near a heating vent or on a radiator. After blooming, they will go dormant, as they are grown from a bulb-like corm. Let the plant rest, and replant the corm in late August for next season's bloom.

Citrus plants, particularly lemons, limes, and miniature oranges are a great addition to the indoor winter garden too. Their fragrant blossoms bring a wonderful scent inside. These naturally acidic citrus are much easier to grow indoors than milder grapefruit and oranges. Look for Improved Meyer and Ponderosa Lemons and Key or Kaffir Limes for indoor cultivation. The Calamondin Orange is the easiest of the citrus to grow because of its compact size and prolific fruiting

habit. The small, sour oranges are tasty and fun to give to your unsuspecting guests. They will make their lips pucker as much as the sourest pickle.

Orchids are wonderful additions to the winter windowsill too. The unique flowers and long-blooming habit of the Phalienopsis Orchid are particularly beautiful. Orchids have a wonderful mystique about them and are considered by many as hard to grow. But I have found them one of the most rewarding and easy plants to grow indoors. Right now, there are a dozen or so on an east-facing bookcase in the family room. I will admit that if they do not rebloom after six months or so, I will replace them with new ones.

For absolute drama and statuesque flowers, the Amaryllis wins the winter flower award hands down. This huge, winter-flowering bulb is awesome in appearance. Brilliant red blooms are the norm, but flowers also come in pink, white, bi-color, salmon, and much more. Two years ago, the huge Amaryllis that we planted in a pot near our sliding glass window reached almost two feet in height and had 17 blooms on several stalks. We had to build a scaffold out of small bamboo stakes to keep the weight of the flowers from bending the thick stalks of the Amaryllis. This plant has definite WOW power written all over it.

This is just a small sample of winter-flowering plants. Forced bulbs, paper whites, begonias,

gloxinias, African violets, and many other winter blooms can be found at your favorite florist or greenhouse. Try a few. Brighten up the indoor landscape. I promise it will make you smile.



*Carrie Engel is the Plant Department Manager at Valley View Farms. Tune in to see Carrie on WBAL-TV in the Sunday Gardener segment, Sundays between 9 and 9:30 a.m. or on Tuesdays during the noon newscast when Carrie answers called-in gardening questions.*



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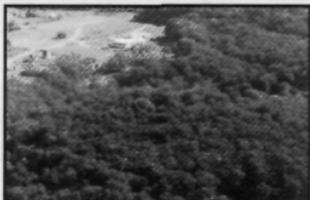
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# The Kitchen Guy

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## Foods from the Pennsylvania Dutch

Several people have suggested that I write a column on “traditional holiday foods.” That is certainly a valid idea, except for one small hitch: When discussing recipes for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa, it is almost impossible to point to universally “traditional” dishes.

Rather than being specific to a holiday, most of our “traditional” dishes are specific to a region or nationality. For instance, the wassail used to toast Christmas comes from England. The potato latkes that many Jews make for Hanukkah are actually German and Northern European. The corn, fresh fruits, and vegetables that form the *Muhindi* and *Mazao* at Kwanzaa are symbolic of crops grown in Africa. And, that lovely roast turkey didn't hit the holiday table until Europeans landed on the East Coast of America.

One common element in all of our traditional holiday dining is that, regardless of our religion or country of origin, we all seem to gravitate to “comfort foods,” those hearty, filling dishes that leave us groaningly full and happily stupefied around the family table. In my opinion, no one in America has the inside track on comfort food like the people known as the Pennsylvania Dutch

The Pennsylvania Dutch are *not* of Dutch ancestry; rather, they are descendants of Germans who settled in Central Pennsylvania starting in the early 1700s. “Dutch” is actually a mispronunciation of “Deutch.” Currently, nearly 90,000 people living in and around Lancaster County belong to the Amish and Mennonite sects that comprise the Pennsylvania Germans.

“The food of Lancaster County and the surrounding region has its roots in the farming and gardening that has defined this area for many years,” writes Steve Gainer, Kitchen Manager at Miller's Smorgasbord in Ronks. “It is said that the soil here is some of the most fertile in the USA.”

Steve goes on to say that the culinary style is influenced by the foods, flavors, and preferences that the original settlers brought from the area where France, Switzerland, and Germany converge. Those traditions were



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modified by the farming and farm-related activities such as butchering, harvesting, and planting—the primary activities of the first settlers. Even today, each family—even those who do not farm—usually has a garden. Families eat what they grow and only buy those items not produced locally.

Pennsylvania German cooks tend to be frugal, and wastefulness is shunned. Creativity with the ingredients at hand and seasonal produce is the rule. In times of abundance, they preserve, can, dry, or pickle the surplus. They also have developed creative recipes to use all of the available produce. Notable examples include pork souse, a loaf made of small pieces of meat from the hogs' head and neck jellied in aspic, and sliced beef heart with brown gravy and stuffing.

Large families and frequent communal dinners often necessitate feeding a crowd on a minimal budget. Dishes such as chicken pot pies, casseroles, browned butter noodles, and beef stew are favorites at gatherings, weddings, and barn raisings.

The phrase “seven sweets and seven sour” is often associated with Pennsylvania German cooking. This is actually a shortened version of the saying that “a good housewife sets her table with seven sweets and seven sour.” This only serves to show that the meals are served in abundance with many varieties and types of food, rather than seven specific sweets and seven specific sour.

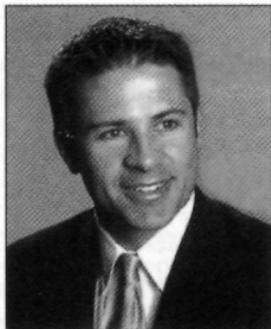
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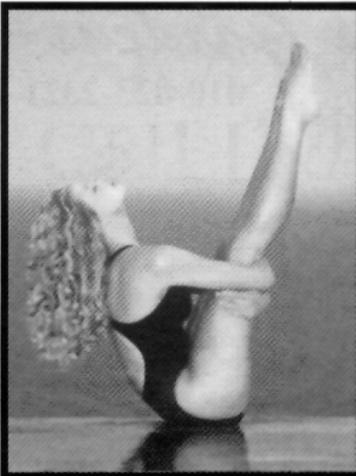
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Desserts are another specialty of the Pennsylvania German cooks. Whoopie pies, snickerdoodle cookies, ginger snaps, and a wide variety of cakes and pies grace the Amish and Mennonite tables. The famous shoofly pie features a "wet bottom" constructed of molasses and brown sugar.

My favorite Pennsylvania German food is their pickles. Pickling is a method of preserving fruits, vegetables, and even meats, during times of abundance. Usually vinegar is the agent of preservation, and the variety of pickles is nearly overwhelming. Pat Burnley's Kitchen Kettle in Intercourse offers a range of pickled produce along with dozens of jams, jellies, and preserves, all made on-site by Amish cooks using traditional methods. Also, check out Esther Sangrey's stall in Lancaster's Central Market.

While at the Central Market, also visit Thomas E. Gillin's cheese store in the Hager Arcade Mall across from the market. He carries artisanal cheeses, cave-aged by local producers.

There are numerous accommodations available for foodies interested in tasting the Pennsylvania German cuisine. The Best Western Eden Resort Inn and Suites in Lancaster makes a good, centrally located base camp. In-room refrigerators can store any perishables that you purchase. A bit more upscale, the Cameron Estate Inn is a delightful B&B out in the countryside near Elizabethtown. Dining at the Cameron is a not-to-be-missed experience.



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For more information about foodie tours of Pennsylvania German Country, contact the Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau at 717-735-0311, or visit their Web site at [www.padutchcountry.com](http://www.padutchcountry.com).

This recipe from the Plain & Fancy Restaurant looks easy at first glance, but to do it right takes time and patience.

### **Brown Buttered Bowtie Noodles**

- 1 pound bowtie noodles
- 5 quarts water
- Pinch of salt
- 1/2 pound butter

Prepare brown butter by placing butter in a frying pan, heat on low. Allow butter to cook slowly until it turns a hazelnut color and the milk solids have browned and settled to the bottom of the pan. Remove from heat, and set aside until noodles are cooked.

Bring water to a boil, and drop in noodles a few at a time, stirring at the

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same time, so noodles do not stick. Bring water back to a boil when all noodles have been added. Cook approximately 12 minutes, until just cooked through. Remove from heat, and drain. Shake off excess water, then toss in a bowl with the brown butter.

For those of you who want to build your noodles from scratch, here is a good basic noodle recipe:

## **Homemade Noodles**

Makes about 1 pound

6 egg yolks

3 cups flour

6 tablespoons water

1/2 teaspoon salt

Beat the egg yolks and water together thoroughly, and stir in the salt and flour to form a very stiff, but workable dough. Separate the dough into four balls, and roll out each one into a thin layer. Lay each piece on a separate cloth to dry. When the layers are dry enough so that they will not stick together, stack them, and cut lengthwise into thin strips. Then cut across the width of the strips to form noodles about 1 1/2- to 2-inches long. Dry noodles completely, and store in an airtight container.

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## Classic Chow Chow

Chow chow takes advantage of all of the late harvest vegetables found in the garden. Availability of various items determines the chow chow's ultimate contents. This recipe makes almost 15 quarts, so tailor the amount of ingredients to your needs.

- 4 cups lima beans
- 4 cups green string beans
- 2 cups yellow wax beans
- 4 cups cabbage, chopped
- 4 cups cauliflower florets
- 4 cups carrots, sliced
- 4 cups celery, cut in chunks
- 4 cups red and green peppers, chopped
- 4 cups small white onions
- 4 cups cucumbers, cut in chunks
- 4 cups corn kernels
- 4 cups granulated sugar
- 3 cups apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1 tablespoon pickling spices
- 1 tablespoon mustard seed
- 1 tablespoon celery seed



*Cook each item separately until tender but not mushy. Rinse with cold water to stop the cooking and preserve color. Drain, then layer into a large pan. Mix sugar, vinegar, water, and spices in a large stockpot, and bring to a boil until the sugar is fully dissolved. Add the vegetables to the syrup, and boil for 5 minutes. Stir gently to mix the vegetables well. You can preserve the chow chow in hot, sterilized jars with air-tight seals.*

## Verdant View Farm's Pear Apple Sauce

To make a large batch:

- 1 pound pears
- 4 pounds apples
- Sugar to taste
- Vanilla yogurt



Ginny Ranck recommends using cooking apples or one of the more tart varieties. Cook the apples and pears with the skins on, then run them through the blender until smooth. Strain the sauce, then add only the amount of sugar needed to suit your taste. For maximum flavor, serve the sauce while still warm with a dollop of vanilla yogurt melting on top.



## Whoopie Pies

This recipe is courtesy of Jim Smucker and the Bird-In-Hand Bakery's *Recipes from Grandma Smucker's Kitchen*.

### Cookie

- 8 heaping cups flour, sifted
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 cups cocoa
- 4 teaspoons salt
- 4 cups sugar
- 2 cups shortening
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups hot water
- 4 teaspoon baking soda

### Filling

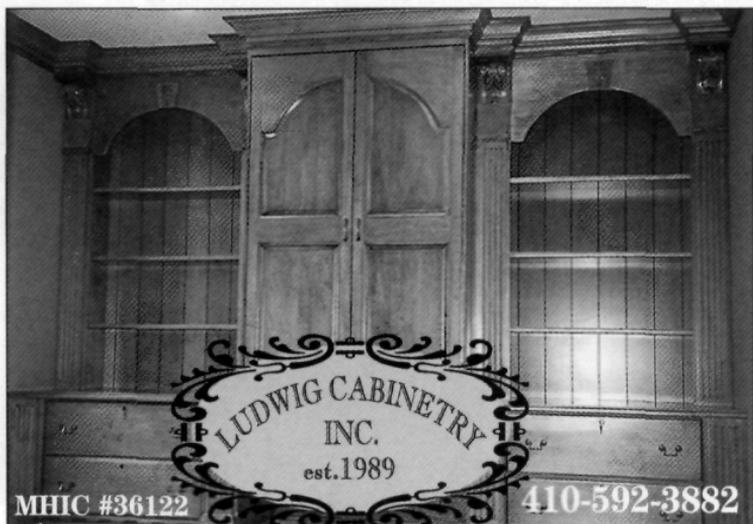
- Cream 4 egg whites
- 4 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 cups 10X sugar
- 3 cups Crisco

Cream together shortening, sugar, and eggs. Add buttermilk. Add flour, cocoa, and salt. Mix soda with hot water, and add last. Drop onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 6 to 7 minutes. Mix filling ingredients, and put generous amount between two cookies.

## Shoofly Pie

### Wet Bottom

- 1 cup dark corn syrup (or molasses)
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda



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### **Crumb Topping**

1 cup brown sugar

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/3 cup shortening

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Dash of salt

2 9-inch pie shells, unbaked

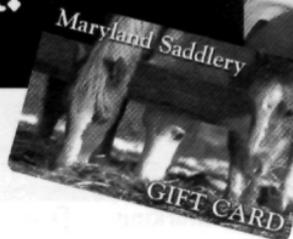
Heat all ingredients for "Wet Bottom" until sugars dissolve completely. Combine all ingredients for crumb topping in a large bowl, and work into crumbs using a pastry blender or 2 knives criss-crossing through the mixture (or use a food processor). Pour 1 1/2 cups of wet bottom syrup into each pie shell. Top with crumb mixture until level with the edge of the pie shell.

Bake in an oven preheated to 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Best when served warm with ice cream or whipped cream.



*Reed Hellman is a freelance writer living in Alberton, Maryland. E-mail your questions and comments to [RHWay2Go@yahoo.com](mailto:RHWay2Go@yahoo.com).*

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# ANNE'S AROUND THE TOWN

by Anne Boone-Simanski

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## REMEMBERING DEAN

This past spring, I told you of the sudden passing of noted Baltimore nightlife icon, Towson High grad, and good friend **Dean Charlton**. Recently, a group of his pals felt it fitting to hold a fundraiser in his memory.

Over 300 people flocked to The Baltimore Museum of Industry for an evening of fun, food, gaming, and most importantly "Remembering Dean." Dean would have been proud—his father was sporting one of Dean's notorious hats from an expansive collection and had each of his tablemates wearing one of his son's fine chapeaus. Other hats of Dean's were decorating different areas of the room.

All of the proceeds for this night of remembering benefited the Boumi Temple's transportation fund. This fund provides rides to those in need of transportation to therapy, treatments, and much-needed after care.

Spearheading this event were committee members (people

who were at some point involved in Dean's world) **Al Grimes, Susan Knott, Dennis Connelly, Joe Herbert, Richard Evans, Bruce Iannantuono, Graham Kastendike, Irene Spengler**, myself, and longtime best friend to Dean, **Streett Baldwin**.

I, like so many others who had the pleasure of knowing Dean, still felt the pain of our loss. But seeing all the people come out to honor Dean and support this cause helped ease it just a bit.

Some of the attendees were **T. Wray McCurdy** and his wonderful wife **Gail, Nancy Egan** (who could not have more delightful parents!), newly engaged **Chris Rosenthal** and his intended **Kelly**, and "the guy who knew everyone," La Scala Ristorante's **Mark Lafond**.

All danced the night away to the tunes of Jr. Cline and the Recliners, and with every turn we reflected on what a unique, great guy Dean Charlton was.

God bless you, buddy!

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## THIRTY WITH A SMILE

I can't believe people dread their 30s. I think it's something that should be celebrated.

So does Villa Julie College. Longtime board member **Ted Herget** received a "rocky" reception at the latest board meeting.



Ted Herget

The board of Villa Julie honored Ted and surprised him with a College rocking chair for being on its board for 30 years. His dedication to this institution is consistent with his character—he is a real dynamo.

Congrats to Ted and to Villa Julie, which will continue to reap the rewards of having Ted's presence for many years to come.

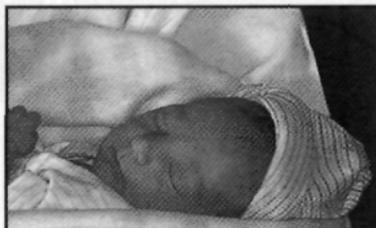


If your organization wishes to be considered for **Anne's Around the Town**, please contact Anne by phone at 410-916-2076, by e-mail at [valleygalanne@yahoo.com](mailto:valleygalanne@yahoo.com), by fax at 410-771-9064 or by snail mail c/o the Valley Times, P.O. Box 1541, Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030.

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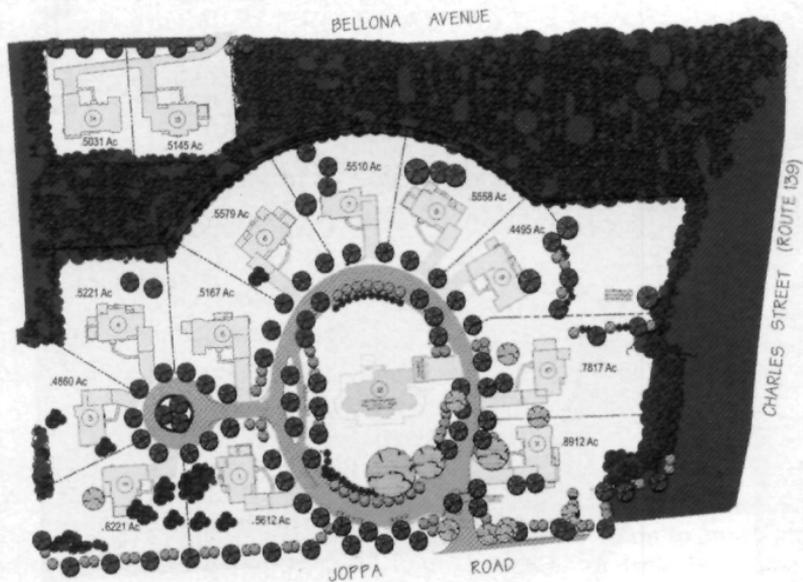
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# December 2004

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## **DECEMBER 2**

### **Wassail at The Walters**

The Walters Art Museum (BCI) Baltimore  
600 N. Charles St. 5pm. It's the kickoff of the holiday season. Tour the museum and enjoy free cookies, wassail (warm cider), and a live performance from the Canticle Singers of Baltimore. At 7pm the holiday lights of the Washington Monument will be set aglow, followed by a fireworks display. For more info. call 410-547-9000.

### **Sounds of the Season**

Peabody Institute (BCI) Baltimore  
1 E. Mount Vernon Place. 7:30pm. Griswold Hall. Festive music following the lighting of the Washington Monument. Free admission.

## **DECEMBER 2, 3, 4**

### **"Deck the Halls"**

Tour in Historic Lutherville (BCO) Lutherville  
Baltimore Symphony Homes for the Holidays Tour. 10am to 3pm. The area's top floral designers have donated their time to deck the halls of select homes. For ticket information call: 410-783-8023.

## **DECEMBER 2 - 5**

### **The Nutcracker**

Towson University Dance Company (BCO) Towson  
Fri. & Sat. 4-8pm., Sun. 3pm. Stephens Hall Theatre. Tickets: Adults, \$18, and \$12 students, seniors and children 12 and under. 410-704-2787.

Y = Handicap Accessible

\$ = Admission

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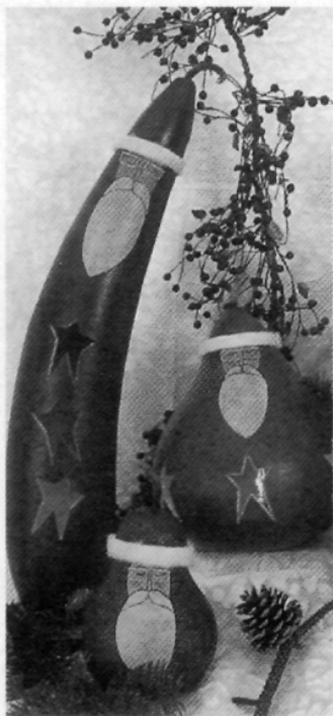
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## **DECEMBER 3 - 24**

### **Holiday Music in the Market**

Lexington Market (BCI) Baltimore  
Mon-Sat, 12N approx. Info. contact: Market 410-685-6169. School choral groups and seasonal entertainers perform holiday favorites at lunch time. Handicap: Y [www.lexingtonmarket.com](http://www.lexingtonmarket.com)

## **DECEMBER 3, 4**

### **State House by Candlelight**

State Circle (AAR) Annapolis  
Performances by local singers & musicians. Free, 410-974-3400. 7-9pm.

## **DECEMBER 4**

### **A Monumental Occasion**

Mount Vernon Place (BCI) Baltimore  
Sat, 5:30pm. Info. contact: Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, 410-837-4636 or 1-877-BALTIMORE. Annual lighting of the Washington Monument by the Mayor and First Family; live entertainment, refreshments, colorful fireworks finale. Handicap: Y [www.promotionandarts.com](http://www.promotionandarts.com)

### **Breakfast With Santa**

College of Notre Dame of Md. (BCI) Baltimore  
4701 N. Charles St. 8:30am to 11 am. \$4 for children ages 2-4, \$6 for kids 6-11, and \$12 for adults and children 12 and older. For information call: 410-532-5542.

## **DECEMBER 4 - 5**

### **Festival of Lights**

Market Square on Broadway (BCI) Fells Point  
Sat, 12N-9pm; Sun, 12N-5pm. Info. contact: Fells Point Marketing Group 410-276-1410 Fells Point's annual tree lighting ceremony and celebration for the holidays. Handicap: Y [www.fellspoint.us](http://www.fellspoint.us)

### **Holiday Wreath Making**

Oregon Ridge Nature Center (BCO) Hunt Valley  
13555 Beaver Dam Rd. 410-887-1815. Welcome the holidays with a fresh evergreen wreath. \$7/wreath is due in advance. Bring clippers and gloves. Christmas movies will play in the auditorium for children.

## *DECEMBER 4-5, 11-12, 18-19*

### **Celtic Christmas**

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Sat-Sun, 1-4pm. Information contact: Boordy Vineyards 410-592-5015  
Enjoy live Celtic harp music; shop for unique holiday gifts and enjoy hot  
wassail. Handicap: Y [www.boordy.com](http://www.boordy.com)

## *DECEMBER 5*

### **Mayor's Christmas Parade**

Falls Rd & Coldspring Lane

(BCI) Baltimore

Sun, 2pm. Information contact: Thomas Kerr, Chairman 410-366-0726  
32nd Mayor's Christmas Parade. Handicap: Y

## *DECEMBER 6*

### **Homewood by Candlelight**

Homewood House

(BCI) Baltimore

3400 N. Charles St. 5-7pm. Admission is \$6/non members, free/members.  
Guests will enjoy seasonal decorations, harpsichord music, cookies and  
eggnog served in the wine cellar, & a selection of unique holiday gifts.

### **Peabody Children's Chorus**

Peabody Conservatory

(BCI) Baltimore

"Welcome Yule" Friedberg Hall, free admission, but tickets must be  
reserved in advance. 3pm. (410) 659-8100, ext 2.

## *DECEMBER 10*

### **Swing Dance**

The Jacques Johnson Band

(BCO) Towson

Towson Armory, 307 Washington Ave. Admission \$12, \$10 members,  
410-583-7337.

### **Peabody Orchestra, Peabody Hopkins Chorus, Peabody Singers**

Peabody Conservatory

(BCI) Baltimore

Friedberg Hall, 8pm. \$18, \$10 seniors, \$8 students with I.D. For infor-  
mation call: 410-659-8100, ext. 2.



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## *DECEMBER 11*

### **Holiday Craft Show**

St. Pius X School (BCI) Baltimore  
9am-3pm. 6432 York Rd. Breakfast with Santa, pancakes and more  
will be served from 9am-11am, cost is \$5 per person or \$25 per family.  
410-427-7400.

### **Getting Started in Birdwatching**

Irvine Nature Center (BCO) Stevenson  
8400 Greenspring Ave. The Center will provide field guides, binoculars,  
where to go and for what to look Fee: \$8, members \$5, registration dead-  
line: Dec. 9. 410-484-2413, ext. 10.

### **Live Nativity Pageant**

Union United Methodist Church (BCO) Baldwin  
5:30-7pm. 5225 Sweet Air Rd., near Patterson Rd. Admission is free.  
For information call: 410-592-7709.

## *DECEMBER 12*

### **Concert Choir**

College of Notre Dame (BCI) Baltimore  
Marikle Chapel of the Annunciation. 4701 N. Charles St. Free admis-  
sion, the choir performs Christmas music. For info. call: 410-532-5386.

## *DECEMBER 15*

### **Holiday Nature Crafts and Gift-Making**

Irvine Nature Center (BCO) Stevenson  
8400 Greenspring Ave. 1-4pm. Ages: 5 & up (with adult) Fee: \$15,  
members \$10 Make 4 crafts, reg. deadline: Dec. 13. 410-484-2413.

## *DECEMBER 19*

### **Open House**

Hampton National Historic Site (BCO) Towson  
535 Hampton Lane, Noon to 4pm. Visitors are invited to enjoy self-  
guided tours of the 18th century mansion decorated to reflect the  
holiday season from the late 1700's to the Victorian era.



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**DECEMBER 31**

**Baltimore's New Year's Eve Spectacular**

Inner Harbor

(BCI) Baltimore

Fri, 9pm-12:30am. Info. contact: Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts 410-837-4636. A celebration offering a night of live music; count-down to 2005 with spectacular fireworks. Admission: \$ Handicap: Y  
[www.promotionandarts.com](http://www.promotionandarts.com)

**DECEMBER 31**

**USS Constellation Museum's New Year's Eve Deck Party**

Pier 1, Inner Harbor

(BCI) Baltimore

Fri, 9pm-1am. Information contact: USS Constellation, 410-539-1797. Ring in the New Year onboard USS Constellation for the best view of the fireworks. Celebrate with lite-fare, desserts, beer, wine, mulled cider, and a champagne toast at midnight; music TBA. Admission: \$ Handicap: Y  
[www.constellation.org](http://www.constellation.org)



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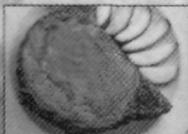
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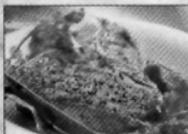
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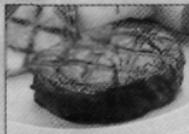
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